

An Essay  
on

The duties of the Physician

Respectfully Submitted  
To the Faculty of the  
Homoeopathic Medical College  
of Pennsylvania

by  
J. Franklin Harvey

Williamsport

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In the language of our great Master  
the first and sole duty of the physician  
is to restore health to the sick.

To live for others and not for himself  
seems to be a sacrifice which he is bound  
to make. Therefore to make himself  
worthy and desirable in his labor of  
love to suffering humanity. For to those  
his mission belongs, he must be ever-  
ready to make a tender of his repose  
and comfort for that of others.

Is the consideration one of an ordinary  
character? The answer is in the negative  
No. It is saving the life and restoring  
the health of a fellow being.

The healing art is no common science, it  
is not mastered in a day. Many years  
are required. and then our work is  
just begun. Of all departments of  
knowledge Medicine is the most comprehensive.



Soul, life, and body. With<sup>the</sup> external world  
 are its subjects. No other science has  
 any such pretensions they are more  
 partial and incomplete. In the study  
 of medicine in all its various departments  
 nature unfolds to the inquiring student  
 its beautiful sublime and complicated  
 workmanship. But soon to say my  
 ways are past finding out. Such a  
 science may well oppress the eye with  
 grandeur. It is the oldest of arts the  
 longest have one the most comprehensive and  
 of all pursuits the most humane.  
 In the language of another - Medicine is  
 the Child of Time. and must  
 advance from one stage of perfection  
 untill another. Till time shall be no  
 more. Though we should never feel  
 a pulse nor listen to the touching  
 story of the invalid. Medicine would



Still be able to absorb all our faculties.  
But to return. The duties of the ~~man~~ man  
of medicine coincide with the most  
sacred laws of religion and philanthropy.  
And whoever embraces the medical profession  
should expect for some years to bestow  
the fruits of his knowledge and skill  
upon those who have but little to repay.  
Therefore it requires a mind elevated  
far above ~~the grasp~~ the grasp of  
the Almighty <sup>dollar</sup> alone. His true reward  
consists not <sup>in dollars</sup> and cents, but something  
of a more beautiful and sublime a  
nature. His professional duties always  
harmonize with that of truth and  
religion. And it is for him to  
disseminate good and alleviate suffering  
whenever an opportunity is presented.



And his opportunities may be stiled  
begin. For his visits attention and  
Medical Skills are demanded among  
all grades and constitutions.

And for the above consideration it  
behoves him to be awake to his duty  
to be ever ready to attend the calls  
of his time honored profession. To make  
no difference between rich and poor-  
high or low. But in the exercise  
of his art. Must regard his fellow  
and not the mere toys of earth.

Can gold repay him for the responsibility  
deep anxiety of mind and midnight  
toils, I answer No. What is the  
treasures of earth compared to the  
tears thanks & outbursts of gratitude  
of a relieved sufferer.



CAREY & CO.  
How beautiful and grand to the true  
minded Physician, is the soul stirring  
gratitude poured forth from the  
bosom of his restored patient.  
The Doctor is pointed to as the  
man that put new life into his  
veins and restored him to his anxious  
friends. The man to arrest disease  
to call back the departing spirit  
to restore the babe to its Mother—the  
parent to the children over whom  
the dread doom of orphanage was  
~~hanging~~ hanging. Where is the man that  
would not find a rich treasure  
of enjoyment in such a labor of  
benevolence. The Physician that  
could not is unworthy the the  
title he bears. The real happiness



That such thoughts would afford me  
would far surpass the value of the  
few dollars I might receive from  
the heartless Muses—as a reward  
for my skill and labors.

I do not wish to be understood that  
the Physician must live upon thanks  
and gratitude only the labourer—  
is worthy of his hire. But to make  
money the sole object of his profession  
is the idea I detest.

The Physician should <sup>proceed</sup> in his practice  
with conscientiousness deep research  
and knowledge. He will then be  
able to do justice to his patient,  
himself, and to the profession.

For in many cases his art will fail  
the tender bud is nipped, manhood has



received to severe a shock, the  
machinery of old age is worn out.  
Therefore at all ages we must die  
But if we are master of the science we  
propose and nature sinks with all our  
assistance to the contrary. We are not  
to blame The internal judge will  
remain silent and ~~therefore~~ not punish  
us with tormenting reproaches.

A great deal of literary knowledge and  
profound medical skill is expected  
of the Physician. by the people with  
whom he mingles he will be asked  
many questions and ready answers  
are expected. Every valetudinarian  
hypochondriac and hysterical person  
looks to the Doctor for a full explanation  
of their troubles and for immediate relief



Unfortunate is the young Physician  
that has to build his reputation on  
Such Patients. Sunk he must.  
But knowledge and <sup>skill</sup> alone are not  
sufficient. The conduct and gentlemanly  
 deportment should be of that kind  
that would command respect and win  
the admiration of all. Many are  
incapable of judging in any other  
way. And by that <sup>loss</sup> his science will  
be measured and his skill appreciated  
accordingly.

The external appearance of the Physician  
should partake of neatness cleanliness and  
order. What is more horrible and  
disgusting to a delicate and sensitive  
Lady than a filthy Doctor. What the  
entrance to the Alimentary Canal



Crowded with the noxious Mord, his breath  
polluted and to the smell <sup>horrible</sup>. The Symphysis  
of the inferior Maxillary well plastered with  
its delightful essence. and his shirt bosom  
similar in appearance and partaking strongly  
of the Compostical. Such a sight is enough  
to antedote any well selected Homoeopathic  
Remedy. What would act save thirty grains  
of Calomel with double the amount of  
Jalap. While such a disgusting sight  
and disagreeable odour is present in the  
Sick Chamber.

The Physician should be careful to  
deserve a good reputation. his Calling  
is an honorable one his Mission is among  
the suffering and the dying. In his  
hands is trusted the life of an immortal  
being. Such bring the facts. What kind



~~What~~ of a man should he be, again  
I answer. A philanthropist a gentleman  
of honor and one hugging close to his  
bosome Religion & truth.

To no one is public opinion so important  
as to the physician, he is the servant  
of the people. And they will decide  
what shall be his station. He must  
therefore be anxious to win an enviable  
reputation, for in that depends to a  
great extent his success in business.

The young physician commencing practice  
starting in life among <sup>have many things</sup> ~~things~~ strangers, to  
contend with and I imagine will find  
many obstacles to encounter. But with  
a character as above described  
combined with honorable dealing  
close attention to business.



and always found in the office and at his books when not on duty will overcome all obstacles outside all opposition and bring him out more than conqueror.

The physician in his relation to his colleagues should develop a character honorable to himself to his fellow and to the profession. What is more revolting and mixed with more disgust to a man of honor than to hear a physician who knows the difficulties of the art judge their colleagues with severity and harshness. Or disclose their faults and try to raise themselves by lowering others. It is a practice which I am sorry to acknowledge is practiced to a very great extent in the medical



profession. We be to the Doctor that  
expects to build up his name and  
gain a reputation by Egotism, and  
abuse of his Colleague. We is a curse  
to himself a disgrace to the profession  
and a vagrant to Society.

Permit me for moment to describe the  
Self convicted egotist entering the Sick  
Room. He enters like a messenger of  
death. With his Egotic countenance  
streaked equal to that of a Steel  
Parson of the School of Calvin he  
walks the room rubbing his hands to  
excite Caloric reminding me of an  
excited Class Leader. an occasional  
Sigh escapes his Sanctified lips he  
feels the pulse gives a knowing look  
prescribes and leaves. With the unproprio-



upon the patients mind, that he must die. Another of a different Colber makes his appearance on a dashing Steed. With all the foolery upon his person that foolery and fashion can invent. He enters with all the airs of a french dancing Master. full of politeness and vain Conversation. He endeavours to carry the idea with the attendants that all Medical Knowledge and practical Skill rested within his Encephalon and without his attention death would soon come to the relief of the suffering patient. Enough is said on that point to convey the idea I wish to divulge.

But one word in regard to the Physician who is backed with good common sense



He understands his profession is a good judge of human nature he comes at the first call makes his appearance at the house of suffering speaks in a polite manner to all he meets. is shown to the room where his presence is needed he enters in a very different manner from either of the two, before mentioned his very appearance and manners command respect and confidence. he seats himself commences a familiar conversation After he has been seated a sufficient length of time for his patient to get clear of the excitement caused by his presence. he makes his diagnosis prescribes and leaves. What is the result he is looked <sup>upon</sup> as a man of honor a Physician and a Gentleman. In conclusion let me



Say it is the Physician's duty to  
fear God. And attend to his own  
business my word for it success will  
attend is labor.